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RURAL DISTRICT OF SOUTH WESTMORLAND



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1951

LIVERPOOL

C. TINLING AND COMPANY LIMITED, PRINTERS, 53, VICTORIA STREET

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council
of South Westmorland.*

SIR, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report upon the health of the Rural District during the year 1951.

The post-war cleavage of Medicine has deepened. The hospitals, general practice and the public health service are resigned to the policy of inco-ordination and each now pursues its independent course on the principle that the Devil will take the hindmost.

The emphasis lies falsely on disease and on the curative services of the regionally controlled hospitals. The ever-mounting cost of treatment reached such fantastic heights that the basic policy of so-called free treatment has been cast to the winds and a direct payment system added—a wedge which will be driven ever deeper as surely as income tax has been levered up from 7d. to 9/6d. in the last hundred years.

The lessons of history pass unheeded, the moral teachings of the ages are derided, the substance rejected for the shadow in this fools' paradise of a post-war world, but shining brightly through the gloom burns the torch of Preventive Medicine for those who can lift their eyes to see it, a service with a proud record in the past and an unquenchable faith in the future as part of a greater Service which is not inspired by man alone.

I wish to acknowledge the help and ready co-operation of my colleague the County Medical Officer of Health, and also the assistance afforded to me by the local general medical practitioners.

I am indebted also to the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff for the spirit of teamwork which exists in my department, and for the fund of local knowledge which they have laid at my disposal.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK T. MADGE,

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area of the Rural District in acres	151,007
Population, Registrar-General's mid-year estimate	17,910
,, (1951 Census—provisional)	17,774
Inhabited Houses	5,347
Rateable Value	£114,133

The Rural District of South Westmorland is a pleasant rolling countryside which rises from sea level in the south to nearly a thousand feet in the North. The shore-line extends for about 14 miles along the estuary of the River Kent, flat and marshy on the north, but with picturesque wooded slopes on the south.

The District is divided into three main valley areas by the two ridges of Scout Scar and Killington, which run north and south across the centre of the southern portion of Westmorland. On the west lie the Winster and Lyth Valleys, in the middle lies the valley of the Kent, and on the extreme east lies the Lune Valley.

The dividing ridge of Scout Scar is sharp and barren, but the larger watershed which runs from Hutton Roof in the south to Whinfell in the north is rolling upland more suitable for agriculture. In the extreme north of the District is the high barrier of the central massif of Westmorland. These geographical features determine the natural lines of communication and therefore the spread of infectious disease.

The geology of the Rural District is sharply divided by the great fault which runs from Kendal in the north to Burton in the south-west and Kirkby Lonsdale in the south-east after branching near Crooklands. The country to the north-east of this fault consists of Kirkby Moor Flags in the Upper Ludlow Series of the Silurian System, with appreciable deposits of glacial drift. The rocks to the west of the fault are carboniferous limestones, with some of the Yoredale Series in the extreme South. The valleys contain much alluvial deposit and some glacial drift. These geological characteristics are of great significance in the supervision of the water supplies, sewerage, and occupational disease as well as affecting the economics of the District.

The climate is mild and equable, though invigorating on the uplands. The valleys are sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds, and their southern aspect provides full access to sunshine. Temperate gradient inversions are occasional in spring and autumn but are soon dispelled in the mornings. The rainfall varies between 40 and 50 inches a year, and light falls of snow may be expected for one or two weeks in the late winter.

The District is mainly agricultural in character and many of the small local industries and crafts are ancillary to agriculture. There are also the following industries which provide much local employment and bring prosperity to the villages:—

Paper Mills.	Wood Turning.
Woollen Mills.	Stone Quarries.
Mat Making.	Tarmacadam Manufacture.
Comb Making.	Cardboard Box Manufacture.
Milk Depots.	Condensed Milk Factory.
Furniture Factory.	Diatomaceous Earthworks.

In addition to these local industries the District receives seasonal tourist business at Arnside, Kirkby Lonsdale, and those northerly parts of the area which lie within the Lake District. The variety of these opportunities for local employment has stopped the drift from the countryside and has kept South Westmorland happily free from unemployment and provided that economic security and local prosperity which is a most important factor in the maintenance of public health.

The rateable value of the Rural District is £114,133 and the product of a penny rate is £452. The Rate for 1951/52 is 2½d. in the Pound, of which 16/6d. represents the County Rate.

STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office.	Whole or Part Time.	Other Offices.
F. T. Madge ...	M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	Part	M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland
G. H. Ball ...	M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.	Chief Sanitary Inspector and Housing Manager	Part	Building Surveyor
D. Shepherd ...	F.S.I.A., F.F.S., M.R.San.I.	Additional Sanitary Inspector	Whole	—
W. H. Aldersley...	M.S.I.A.	Additional Sanitary Inspector	Whole	—
H. Moss	—	Clerk	Whole	—
K. A. Beveridge	—	Clerk	Whole	—
D. W. Elwell ...	—	Pupil	Whole	—
B. M. Machell ...	—	Clerk to Medical Officer of Health	Part	Clerk to M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland
W. E. R. Thomas	F.I.A.S., M.R.San.I., A.Inst.W.E.	Water Engineer	Part	Sanitary Engineer
P. Hampshire ...	—	Housing Supervisor and Welfare Officer	Whole	—

STAFF CHANGES.

There were no staff changes during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following extracts are made from information supplied by the Registrar-General, with figures for 1950 for comparison.

Area of the District in acres 151,007

					1950	1951
Estimated civilian population (mid-year)	...	...	17,600	17,910		
Live Births. Legitimate—	males	...	127	125		
	females	...	122	126		
Illegitimate—	males	...	6	8		
	females	...	5	5		
	Total	...	260	264		
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	14·7	14·7		
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	15·8	15·5		
Stillbirths. Legitimate—	males	...	1	4		
	females	...	—	—		
Illegitimate—	males	...	1	1		
	females	...	—	—		
	Total	...	2	5		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	7·6	18·5		
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	0·11	0·27		
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	0·37	0·36		
Deaths. males	...	...	114	110		
	females	...	119	126		
	Total	...	233	236		
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	13·2	13·1		
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	11·6	12·5		
Infantile Deaths (under 1 year)						
Legitimate	...	...	12	12		
Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	48·1	47·8			
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	—	—			
Total Deaths under 1 year	...	12	12			
Rate per 1,000 live births	...	46·1	45·4			
Rate for England and Wales	...	29·8	29·6			

		1950	1951
Neonatal Deaths (under 1 month)			
Total neonatal deaths	... ...	9	11
Rate per 1,000 live births	... ...	34.6	41.6
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)			
Deaths	... ... ... ...	—	—
Rate per 1,000 live births	... ...	—	—
Rate for England and Wales	... ...	1.9	1.4
Maternal Mortality			
Total Deaths	... ... ... ...	1	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	... ... ... ...	3.8	3.7
Rate for England and Wales	... ...	0.86	0.79

Deaths from certain causes:—

		1950	1951
Cancer	... ... ... ...	44	31
Measles	... ... ... ...	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	... ... ... ...	Nil	Nil

The main causes of death were:—

Heart Disease	... ... ... ...	... ...	87
Vascular lesions of nervous system	... ...	... ...	39
Cancer	... ... ... ...	... ...	31

COMMENTARY ON VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar-General's estimate of your civilian mid-year resident population was 17,910 but the provisional figure for the 1951 Census was 17,774. It is fruitless to discuss the significance of these figures until the full census statistics are available.

Nevertheless the estimate reflects a fairly stable population which has varied very little since your boundaries were revised in 1935. A proper perspective cannot be obtained by considering merely one year's changes. It is the general trend of population which is important for the planning of your future housing, water and sewerage requirements, and for the broader issues of the economic prosperity of your District.

Before the second World War you were a declining community, not only showing less births than deaths, but also drifting steadily each year out of the countryside. There was a small artificial increase in 1940 and 1942 due to some three thousand war evacuees from the vulnerable areas, but these people have now nearly all gone back. For the past seven years you have maintained your population by your own reproduction and I hope this encouraging sign will continue.

I believe that the setting up of a better basis for agriculture in the national economy has checked the drift from the countryside, and has encouraged your young folk to renew their faith in country life by settling down and undertaking the responsibilities of a family.

Birth Rate.

Your birth rate during 1951 was above your death rate. The general trend of recent years has been for deaths to exceed births and the effect of the two wars has aggravated the position. The present child-bearing and begetting population suffered twice. There is a sad gap in their ranks due to the unborn casualties of the first World War, and at the onset of the Second War their marriages were delayed, prevented or frustrated at the time of their maximum fertility.

Still-birth Rate.

Your still-birth rate was satisfactory.

Death Rate.

Your death rate was slightly above that for England and Wales, but I attach no significance to that fact.

Infantile and Neo-natal Deaths.

Infantile deaths are deaths in children under the age of one year, and included in this figure are the neo-natal deaths which are deaths in children under one month of age. This distinction helps to separate the deaths which are due to factors connected with pregnancy, child-birth and abnormal development, which are more likely to cause death within the first month, from the factors connected with infant management which are more likely to cause death between one month and one year.

There were 12 infant deaths in 1951 and of these 11 were neo-natal deaths. The infantile death rate was well above that for England and Wales. You will remember that in 1910 your rate was 120, during the first decade of this century it varied between 80 and 70, during the twenties it fell to between 60 and 50, and during the last few years it has been between 40 and 20. Your figures are too scanty to carry any great statistical significance, but as the trend runs parallel to that for England and Wales I consider that they reflect a very satisfactory improvement in child-care by the local doctors, nurses, and, above all, by the young mothers in their homes. I hope that this happy state will continue.

The neo-natal deaths contain what we might call the hard core of "unavoidable" infant deaths. Many of these in the past have been due to prematurity, abnormality, or the result of difficult child-birth. It does not appear likely that science will be able to prevent developmental abnormalities, but there are high hopes that blood tests and the increased availability of obstretrical specialists will help to reduce the number of neo-natal deaths.

Maternal Mortality.

There was one maternal death due to shock.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 143-170.

National Health Service Act, 1946. Part III.

The major outbreak of notifiable disease during 1951 was one of measles which occurred during the spring in the Lune valley area, and which was associated with a similar epidemic in Kendal.

Milnthorpe, Heversham, and the Lyth Valley suffered a small outbreak of whooping cough during the summer. Both measles and whooping cough were mild and none necessitated admission to hospital.

One case of paratyphoid occurred near Kirkby Lonsdale. It seemed that the infection had been contracted elsewhere and there was no spread of the disease locally.

The second half of the year was comparatively free from infectious diseases. The control of these illnesses remains one of the most important tasks of the department.

Whooping Cough.

Whooping cough is slowly being brought under control. Artificial immunisation against the disease is now available and the treatment of established cases seems to be improved by the new synthetic antibiotic drugs. There seems every hope that this very distressing illness in little children can be virtually wiped out.

Measles.

Measles remains a disease which visits the area with periodical regularity. No effective artificial immunisation is yet available, but the use of antibiotic drugs has greatly reduced the incidence of pneumonia and ear disease complications in measles.

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet fever has been insignificant for many years, and the illness is now normally nursed at home. Research has shown that scarlet fever is merely one manifestation among many of infection with the haemolytic streptococcus organism. Its virulence has diminished during this century and treatment is more effective in preventing complications. Scarlet fever is repressed rather than conquered.

Diphtheria.

Diphtheria has not occurred since 1946. Artificial immunisation appears to have almost abolished diphtheria, and I hope that serious epidemics of this deadly disease have been banished for all time.

I wish to thank the local doctors and nurses for their efforts to secure artificial immunisation of every baby before the first birthday, and the school medical officers for their part.

Dysentery.

Notifications of the Sonne type of dysentery have increased in recent years. This is probably because extended laboratory services have facilitated more accurate diagnosis of the group of diseases which are characterised by diarrhoea. Sonne dysentery has been widespread throughout the north west of England, and its control lies mainly in securing clean food handling and the maintenance of higher standards of sanitation.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE.

DISEASE.	Total.	Ages.									Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.	
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-		
Scarlet Fever	...	8	—	—	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	3	—
Paratyphoid	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Sonné Dysentery	...	5	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
non-Paralytic	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Erysipelas...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	...	259	3	12	25	20	34	126	18	4	12	5	—
Whooping Cough	...	92	8	5	7	12	14	37	7	—	1	1	—
Total	...	373	II	18	34	35	53	165	26	4	14	8	3 2 6

Smallpox.

Smallpox remains an increasing threat due to the combined effect of apathy towards vaccination and enthusiasm for airborne travel. I think that people do not realise that we are less than 24 hours away from areas of constant ravage by this dreadful disease.

Smallpox swept the country from time to time until some 50 years ago when widespread vaccination checked its progress and vigilance at the sea ports prevented its importation. A generation has grown up which is blinded by the complacency of false security, not yet realising that air travel has made smallpox once more a very real risk to the community.

Persons from abroad, who may be incubating the disease, arrive in this country well within the incubation period. It is most important that all children should be vaccinated in infancy, and that adults should keep themselves protected, rather than rush in belated panic for mass vaccination when an outbreak occurs.

The present low vaccination state of the population is inviting trouble from this disfiguring and often fatal disease. I cannot stress too strongly the wisdom of taking obvious precautions against preventable diseases.

Hospital and Ambulance Arrangements for Infectious Diseases.

National Health Service Act, 1946, Parts II and III.

Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, Manchester, at Lancaster Isolation Hospital, a modern and well equipped building, within easy reach of this area under modern transport conditions.

Smallpox cases will be admitted to the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital near Bury.

Ambulance transport for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Westmorland County Council and is based in Kendal.

Disinfection Arrangements.

Steam disinfection of suitable articles has been situated in the Borough of Kendal. In the more scattered parts of the District reliance has to be placed upon disinfection with formaldehyde.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis is the most important communicable disease of our time. It is sadly expensive in human lives, in crippling, and in money. It attacks mainly the teen-ager and the young adult, but its tragic progress lingers often into old age, spreading ripples of infection in its path. It is a latent challenge to preventive medicine.

The prevention of Tuberculosis is primarily dependent upon social and economic factors in the general community, and secondarily upon the management of the established case. Your Council's functions are three-fold: to investigate the source of infection, to prevent the spread of infection, and to remove conditions favourable to infection.

Investigation of the source of infection relies upon notification. Since the Regional Hospital Boards reorganised the arrangements for treating tuberculosis, notification has deteriorated seriously and our statutory registers are becoming progressively inaccurate. Some liaison machinery is gradually being evolved with the aim of trying to restore co-ordination between treatment and prevention which existed before July, 1948.

When notifications are received, inquiries are made into the home and working conditions of the patient and into any outside possible sources of infection. In this way occasional infectious respiratory cases can be discovered, and in certain cases of non-respiratory involvement infected milk can be traced back to tuberculous cows. A more detailed medical examination of members of the patient's family is undertaken by the Regional Hospital Board.

Additional assistance in investigating the source of infection will be provided by the Mass Miniature Radiography Units of the Regional Hospital Boards, which offer free X-ray examination in each locality from time to time. It is hoped that the public response will be good and that not only will it reveal the infectious cases but will enable early cases to be offered the best possible chances of recovery.

The Manchester Regional Hospital Board's Unit was stationed in Kendal for the first time in December, 1950, to survey the Borough and the surrounding area of South Westmorland. During the visit 5,752 persons were X-rayed and the value of this work was proved by the discovery of 11 cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis, some of whom were in an infectious condition.

Preventing the spread of infection depends mainly upon the management of the established case. Ideally, the infectious patient should be

isolated, but the serious shortage of beds and nurses in sanatoria causes many cases to remain outside. This is usually to the detriment of the patient and it creates a very serious reservoir of infection leaking into the general population.

If isolation in hospital is denied, reliance has to be placed on education of the patient in personal precautions, and your Council endeavour to ensure that the home conditions are such that an infectious patient is not compelled to share a bedroom with other members of the family who are still healthy, and where possible to rehouse young families who are sharing a house with infectious tuberculosis patients—rather an inadequate and pathetic makeshift.

Prevention of tuberculosis extends beyond the home. Your Council have the duty of ensuring that an infectious patient is not employed in dairying or food handling, and persuasion is occasionally needed to avoid the undesirability of such a patient carrying on certain other employment which would create an especial risk to susceptible contacts. In many other workplaces control is impotent and spread may be unchecked. Perhaps immunisation with B.C.G. vaccine may protect susceptibles.

Removing conditions favourable to infection embraces the whole range of environmental preventive medicine. Housing and nutrition are probably the major factors. Slum clearance, reconditioning of houses, relief of overcrowding are the first steps, for tuberculosis thrives in damp, dark, congested dwellings, whether they be sited in an urban slum or rural solitude. Nutrition is undoubtedly significant in the prevention of infection and in the early arrest of tuberculosis. Protective foods are expensive to buy, medical treatment is free.

The increase in attested herds, the eradication of tuberculous cattle, and systematic meat inspection are making notable progress in removing conditions favourable for bovine infection to be transmitted to man.

The supervision of dusty trades under the Factories Act reduces the risk of lung damage which may predispose to tuberculous infection, and the workers in these occupations are especially surveyed by the X-ray units.

Your Council have therefore very considerable responsibilities in accepting the challenge of tuberculosis, but their powers would be considerably enhanced by better co-ordination with the various other bodies who are allies in this cause.

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	I	—	I	I	—	—	—	—
15	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	3	I	—	—	—	I	—	—
35	I	I	—	—	—	I	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	7	6	I	I	—	2	—	—

Seven of the respiratory cases and one of the non-respiratory cases were inward transfers from other areas.

HOUSING.

The Housing Acts, 1936 and 1949.

Under the Housing Acts your Council has a duty to consider the general housing conditions in your district, to ascertain whether any are unfit for human habitation, and to assess the need for further houses. You have powers to deal with unfit houses, powers to provide new houses for all classes, and various powers and duties in the management of your Council's estates. Good housing conditions are an integral part of public health.

Present Housing Position.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 57.

There were 5,347 inhabited houses on your Rate Book at the end of the year. With an estimated population of 17,910, the average number of persons per house is 3·3 which is not a high figure. There were no cases of legal overcrowding within the strict definition of the Housing Act, which assumes that living-rooms are used also for sleeping purposes, and that the sexes can be segregated irrespective of age, health or family relationships. Assessment of overcrowding based on a minimum bedroom standard is long overdue and would provide a more realistic picture of the domestic difficulties which are reflected in the application lists for new houses.

The great majority of cottage houses and farmhouses are of considerable age and are stone built. Many of the older houses suffer from rising dampness due to the absence of damp-proof courses which cannot be remedied without extensive works in under-pinning. The sound methods of the original construction have ensured that deterioration of the structure is a very slow process, but heavy repair costs and low rentals have made housing repairs unprofitable.

Your Rural Housing Survey set out the details of your houses and showed that in those parishes where public services are available most of the houses are provided with modern amenities. Elsewhere they are lacking.

Slum Clearance.

The modest start in slum clearance did something to overcome the initial inertia of past inactivity in this field. Although your new housing provision has been encouraging and a small proportion of new houses has been allocated to tenants from very sub-standard cottages there is rather a disquieting tolerance of rural slum conditions.

In carrying out your slum clearance duties I would strongly advise your Council to observe the strict procedure of the Housing Acts, because only by so doing is full protection afforded to the interests of the landlords, the tenants, and your Council. Informal undertakings and restrictive covenants cause not only considerable departmental embarrassment, but often injustice to the property owners.

The Housing Act, 1949, offers considerable financial aid to owners for reconditioning houses. I hope that full advantage will be taken of these opportunities to the limit of the current licensing restrictions.

Closing Orders.

Housing Act, 1936. Section 12.

Four Closing Orders were made during the year. There were ten Closing Orders in force at the year end, and included in this figure were three Orders which have not yet been complied with and are still in occupation. Two official representations were under consideration at the year end in respect of two dwellings, each being part of a building at Barley Bridge, Staveley.

Undertakings not to use for Human Habitation

Housing Act, 1936. Section 11.

Four formal undertakings were accepted by your Council during 1951. At the year end the number of such undertakings in force was 29 and 10 of these houses were still occupied.

Undertakings to perform Works.

Housing Act, 1936. Section 72.

Two such undertakings were offered during the year. Work proceeded on the houses actioned in 1949 and 7 more were completed, 8 are still outstanding.

Improvement Grants.

Housing Act, 1949.

Six applications were received during the year. Four were approved by the Council. Two applications were refused.

Your Council purchased eight houses, Nos. 17-24 Gatebeck in order to recondition them. The scheme was approved by the Minister and is in an advanced stage of preparation.

Owners of houses are offered excellent opportunities for securing grants to improve their property and your Health Department will render advice on request.

Demolition Orders.

Housing Act, 1936. Section 25.

During 1951 your Council served Demolition Orders on two dwellings situated at:—

Nos. 4 and 5 Barley Bridge, Staveley.

At the year end the number of outstanding demolition orders were 17 situated at:—

2 cottages, Stanley Street, Beetham.	Unoccupied.
Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, Church Bank, Burton.	Two occupied.
Carr's Yard, Milnthorpe.	One occupied.
Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, Barley Bridge, Staveley.	Five occupied.
Nos. 1 and 2, Redmayne Tenement, Skelsmergh.	One occupied.
Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Halfpenny Cottages, Stainton.	Three occupied.

Official Representations against individual unfit houses were before your Council at the year end regarding:—

Four houses at Bridge End, Levens.

One house at Thatchmoor Head, Lambrigg.

Clearance Areas.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 25.

No Clearance Areas are outstanding but during 1951 I made an Official Representation against a block of six very sub-standard cottages at Alec Row, Staveley. Your Council decided to proceed by way of a compulsory purchase order and this action was pending at the year end.

Fit Houses Requisitioned.

Defence Regulation 51.

The following premises were still under your requisition at the year end:—

- Gatefoot Cottage, Staveley.
- Cross View, Milnthorpe.
- Hill End, Underbarrow.
- 7, Church View, Natland.
- The Hill, Arnside.
- The Anchorage, Staveley.

Estimated Requirement for New Houses.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 71.

You will remember that your post-war demand was estimated to be about 1,100, made up of about 350 condemned and condemnable houses and about 570 needed for agricultural workers, and for the provision of a house for each family unit.

In August, 1951, your Housing Committee reviewed the position. At that date 326 houses had been completed, 78 were under construction and 52 were subject to preliminary negotiations.

The number of outstanding applications for Council houses at that date was 358. There were also 29 condemned houses still occupied and a further 444 condemnable Class 5 houses ultimately needing replacement.

For the purpose of practical policy your Council accepted a figure of 120 condemned and condemnable houses from which the tenants could be rehoused during the ensuing five years and which would form the basis of slum clearance action.

It seems that the original post-war estimate of about 1,100 new houses can still be adopted as a working figure, subject to periodical review of current needs and circumstances.

The agricultural demand presents peculiar difficulties. The difficulties of labour in the farmhouses are hardening farmers' wives against the workers living in and the shortages of cottages discourages married men. The position is, however, still complicated by the Government's policy against tied cottages, and this embarrassment leads to a vicious circle in the letting of Council houses between the tenants, the farmers and your Council. The policy of siting farm workers' houses in existing villages may be satisfactory in arable farming areas, but it leads to working difficulties on stock farms where it is desirable for the men to be near their work. Your Council has requested the County Agricultural Executive Committee and the National Farmers' Union to furnish evidence of need in any particular locality as it may occur.

The provision of a house for each family unit is calculated on the recently checked data provided in your Council's application lists. One has to bear in mind that the portion of your District which surrounds Kendal is used very considerably as a dormitory area for Kendal's overspill of population. I would again stress the need for the closest co-operation to be continued with the Borough in order to minimise duplication.

The estimated requirement for new houses takes no account of possible industrial development in your District. The Milnthorpe area is capable of small development, and the workshops of the Liverpool Seamen's Welfare Centre at Summerlands seem to be rapidly expanding in scope, but on the whole there is no appreciable reservoir of labour to attract light industries to your District. Your immigration figures show how labour follows the houses, and scope for expansion is largely in your own hands.

Housing Building Progress.

In 1948 your Council formulated a policy to build between 400 and 500 houses before the end of 1952, and the balance not covered by private enterprise in a subsequent five-year period.

At the end of 1951 your post-war achievement was:—

Completed ...	...	...	...	...	...	346
Under construction	...	...	...	...	...	98

plus a further 122 completed and 16 under construction by private enterprise.

The allocation of permission to build new houses was 85 for 1951. This figure will probably be maintained for subsequent years and it is desirable that site acquisition should keep well ahead of development.

Selection of Tenants.

Selection of tenants for Council houses is done on a points basis. Briefly, the system consists of a single initial application form used for filing and reference: when houses in the district in which the applicant requires accommodation are nearing completion a further form is sent requiring extensive information. After seven or fourteen days the Housing Manager visits each applicant, the relevant facts are checked, he then makes the points award form. When all applicants have been visited a Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Housing Committee, the local representatives and a representative of the agricultural interests meet, the applications are then considered on a points basis, no names being disclosed. The system appears to work with complete satisfaction. I repeat my plea for a higher degree of priority to be given to the occupiers of your sub-standard dwellings. I believe that their salvation from physical ills due to bad housing is a work of greater mercy than relieving the emotional incompatibilities of those who have to share the better houses.

Housing Management.

Your Council owned 418 occupied houses at the year end, and housing management in the District is under the control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor, an arrangement which, in my opinion is most satisfactory; it ensures that unsatisfactorily housed persons, who are either in sub-standard dwellings or grossly overcrowded are given due consideration and not overlooked. The arrangement also permits the technical officer most concerned having

control of repairs and ensures that the property is well maintained. A modest start was made in providing direct labour for maintenance. Some of your Council's staff have been engaged on repairs, brick-laying, masonry, plastering and slating. The open spaces on your Housing Estates are difficult to maintain with the present staff and you may need to provide more help in the future. The rents of your Council houses vary from 8/-od. to 14/-o per week, exclusive of rates, and the rateable values are between £10 and £18.

Verminous Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 83-85.

Four cases required action during the year.

Nuisances and Notices.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 91-100.

On the 1st January, 1951, there were 90 Informal Notices outstanding. During 1951 Informal Notices served numbered 73. The number of Informal Notices completed during the year was 83 leaving outstanding on 31st December, 1951, a total of 80.

Statutory Notices outstanding on 1st January, 1951, numbered 4, 1 was completed during the year, and 2 were served, leaving a balance of 5 at 31st December, 1951.

In no case was it necessary to obtain an Abatement Notice from the Court.

These notices entailed 81 initial visits and 138 re-visits.

Dangerous Buildings:

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 58.

Action was taken during the year in four cases, none necessitating Court Action.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and Moveable Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 268-269.

There are seven licensed camping sites in the Rural District, comprising three at Arnside, one at Storth, one at Levens, one at Hazelslack, and one at Barker Knott.

Unlicensed camping sites are scattered throughout the area, but very little nuisance arises from casual campers' improvised sanitary arrangements and refuse disposal. Water is taken from polluted becks at their own risk.

As this District is in or on the fringe of the National Park it is most desirable that strict but unobtrusive supervision should be exercised over camping sites, to ensure that the natural beauty of the country is not despoiled by the careless few.

Individual caravans licensed at the commencement of the year numbered 19. During the year 10 new licences were granted and 9 were withdrawn, leaving a total of 20 at the year end. One application for a licence was refused.

Caravans, sheds and other immobilised vehicles are difficult to supervise, and if undetected they constitute an undesirable precedent for the indiscriminate and unauthorised erection of shacks which are not in keeping with the amenities of the District and which seriously aggravate the sanitary administration.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supply to your District is derived from many sources. The principal source of public supply is from your Lupton reservoirs, the mains from which extend into 19 parishes in the southern part of your area.

Your Council control and maintain other sources of supply in a further 10 parishes. The Thirlmere Aqueduct of Manchester Corporation passes through your District, and connected to it are some houses in the 10 parishes along its route. In three parishes some of the houses draw supplies from the mains of Kendal Corporation.

The principal supply of three parishes and a supplementary supply in one parish are owned by commercial undertakings. A considerable portion of your District is dependent upon private supplies from wells, adits, springs, stored rain water or small watercourses. No public nor organised private supply whatever is available in 16 parishes.

It must not be assumed that the supplies to all the above parishes are adequate. In a number of parishes very few houses are actually supplied from the sources named. The Rural Housing Survey, completed in June, 1946, detailed the number of houses served in each parish, and at present I estimate that only about 64 per cent. of all the houses in your District have a public supply laid on to the house. Private supplies laid on amount to another 26 per cent., leaving about 10 per cent. of houses to which water has to be carried.

The Lyth Valley area was particularly badly supplied with water, being dependent upon unreliable springs of very hard water from the limestone formation, or seriously contaminated shallow catchpits in the valley bottom, but the gradual extension of your Council's new

scheme is bringing relief to each village and hamlet on the route of the pipeline.

Special measures were maintained to safeguard the purity of the public supplies.

The quality of the public water supplies is generally good. The laboratory results of examinations and analyses of the ten public supplies are set out in Appendix "A." I have no official knowledge of the quality of the myriad of private supplies, and I suspect that many of them are unsatisfactory in quality and very variable in quantity. I can do no more than warn the users that they drink it at their own risk, that they should have it tested for purity at regular intervals and if in doubt, they should boil it.

The following is a brief review of your Council's public water supplies:—

Lupton Supply.

The parishes supplied are Arnside, Beetham, Crosthwaite, Natland, Witherslack, Heversham, Preston Patrick, Preston Richard, Sedgwick, Stainton, Hincaster, Holme, Hutton Roof, Levens, Lupton, Meathop, Milnthorpe, Helsington and Underbarrow.

The supply is upland surface water impounded into two reservoirs. Barkin House reservoir has a capacity of eight million gallons and a top water level of 630 feet O.D. The catchment area is open fell land, 332 acres, of which 104 acres are owned by your Council. The average rainfall over 14 years was 46.6 inches, and that of the three driest years 31.6 inches. Compensation water of 34,000 gallons per day has to be supplied.

The other reservoir is at Tarnhouse, with an available capacity of 22 million out of 30 million gallons, and a top water level of 590 feet O.D. The catchment area is open fell land and some arable land, 217 acres, none of which is owned by your Council. The rainfall is the same as for Barkin House.

These waters are mixed and filtered through Bell's pressure filters, and are chlorinated before distribution into the mains system. The reservoir is used for fishing under your Council's licence. The quality of the treated water is good.

Staveley Supply.

The parishes are Hugill, Nether Staveley and Over Staveley. The source is spring water from a disused mine-working in the Kentmere

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1951

valley. The water gravitates to an adit and is collected at 532 feet O.D. The water is untreated and is good in quality.

Kirkby Lonsdale Supply.

The source is from a water-bearing gravel bed at Fleet. The depth of the collecting chambers is about 9 feet with a top water level of 330 feet O.D. The gathering ground is not defined but is estimated to be at least 261 acres of which your Council own one acre. The quantity of the supply has been abundant for some 70 years and the quality has been good except for some plumbosolvent tendencies. The water passes untreated to the consumers.

Casterton Supply.

The source is from springs at 480 feet O.D. and from surface waters. The quality is indifferent and there are occasional outbreaks of diarrhoea among the consumers following heavy rain. The surface water component of this supply is undesirable drainage from pasture land and is used only when the yield of the springs falls below the demand.

During 1951 I recommended that this supply ought at all times to be chlorinated and a plant was on order at the year end. I hope that chlorination will reduce the ill effects of this water, but the whole system is a poor one and ought to be replaced by a safer and more constant source of supply.

Barbon Supply.

The source is from springs at 450 feet O.D. The quality is intermittently bad and the water is untreated. I made a detailed investigation of the supply, and recommended improvements to your Council for piping the fell runners near the road and this work was completed during 1951, but it can only be a partial remedy for a supply which is intrinsically poor and which ought to be replaced by a safer source. It may be that the proposed Haweswater aqueduct could solve your Council's difficulties with the Barbon, Casterton and Kestwick supplies all of which I regard with misgivings.

Grayrigg Supply.

The source is partly from a small spring and partly from upland surface water from uninhabited fell grazing ground, some 57 acres in extent, none of which is owned by your Council. The water is collected in a small tank with a top water level of 670 feet O.D. and is untreated.

Just at the end of 1950 your Council altered the headworks to ensure that the supply was derived only from the small limestone spring, because fell drainage operations seemed to have aggravated the long-standing trouble of heavy sediment after rains.

After this work the appearance of the water showed great improvement although it was considerably harder. Plans for replacing this system by a larger scheme are in abeyance.

Burneside Supply.

This private commercial supply has its sources in upland surface gathering ground on Potter Fell. The quality of the water at the last test was good. The water is untreated.

Kearstwick Supply.

This private supply derives from Terrybank Tarn and gave trouble during 1951. The owners took prompt remedial action to extend the intake above the source of pollution and small chlorination plants are operated at two points on the system.

A more permanent reconstruction of this system is under consideration for grant aid by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, following your Council's decision not to take it over in its present state.

Garth Row Supply.

This small scheme is upland surface water which was poor in quality. A large storage tank was constructed in 1948.

Garnett Bridge.

This small scheme is connected to the Thirlmere aqueduct and the water was good in quality at the last test.

General.

Those supplies which show poor or indifferent bacteriological results are in the main due to the upland gathering grounds being grazed by stock with the consequent manurial contamination of the water after rainfall. The bacterial counts fluctuate widely according to the climatic conditions, and as most of your public waters are untreated the contamination tends to be a nuisance in laboratory control rather than any particular danger to the consumers. Certain sources, however, require constant supervision against possible human pollution.

Proposed Future Water Schemes.

Additional Headworks.

Your Council consider that increased storage and catchment are required for the future expansion of the Lupton Scheme, and your Consulting Engineers are examining the alternative possibilities of constructing a new reservoir at Wyndhammere, obtaining water from Killington reservoir, raising the dam at your present Tarnhouse reservoir, or future connection to the proposed Haweswater aqueduct.

Lyth Valley Scheme.

Your Council are extending the Lupton supply to the Lyth Valley area, including Witherslack, Howe Row, Crosthwaite, Underbarrow and Brigsteer. This scheme is most urgently needed for the convenience of inhabitants and for cleaning up the present obsolete sanitary arrangements. Work was started in September 1949 and is now well advanced.

Crook.

An outline scheme for a small public water supply for a group of 35 houses in Crook was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health during 1950, but no real progress was made in 1951, and it seems doubtful when, or even if, the scheme will mature.

Helsington.

A scheme for the extension of your Lupton system from Natland to Helsington Parish, near Prizet, was prepared for the purpose of supplying six farms and several private houses. This scheme was submitted to the Ministry of Health in 1950.

SEWERAGE.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 14.

The general position is not very satisfactory. Public sewers and disposal works exist only in the more populous parts of twelve parishes, and in three other parishes there are systems installed by commercial undertakings. The rest of your District relies upon individual septic tanks, cesspools or drainage into watercourses, or still retains the more primitive practices associated with privies, privy middens, pails, and earth closets. This position is due to the lack or late installation of the public water supplies in these areas.

Your Council are fully aware of these deficiencies and are planning considerable extensions of the public sewerage system, and are

improving, or replacing some of the existing disposal works which have become obsolete or inadequate for present and future requirements. Many areas will still have to await the public water supply before their insanitary conditions can be properly remedied.

Even when the public water supply arrives it will not be economically practicable to install comprehensive sewerage and full treatment sewage disposal plants, and the smaller villages or hamlets can be fairly well served by group septic tanks where the soil is suitable for irrigation with the effluent. Isolated houses must therefore rely upon this method of drainage.

Disposal Methods and Works.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 15.

Arnside.

This plant consists of a tank on the shore fed by a sewer with a very poor fall, and embarrassed by tidal action. The effluent is discharged into the estuary and is often not of a very high standard. The whole of Morecambe Bay is, however, so grossly polluted with sewage that your contribution, although undesirable, is negligible in quantity. The sludge is pumped up to an old quarry at New Barns, where there are obsolete and inefficient so-called drying beds. I do not like the Arnside arrangements and I would recommend that alternative arrangements should be adopted for sludge drying and disposal.

Staveley.

This is a modern plant situated near Hundhow on the Back Road to Burneside. It consists of detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, rotary percolating filters, humus tanks, and storm water tanks, with suitable sludge drying beds. The effluent passes into the adjacent River Kent and is usually of good quality. I am satisfied that these works are capable of producing good results and are adequate for the anticipated growth of the area.

Kirkby Lonsdale.

These works are situated on the Whittington Road near Robraine. The design is old-fashioned, and the results appear to be variable. There are detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, and percolating filter beds from fixed sprinklers, storm-water tanks, and sludge drying beds. The effluent passes into the adjacent River Lune. This plant is decaying and I think it will be inadequate to deal with the new housing development in a few years. I consider that you ought to commence preparing plans for the reconstruction or at least its reconditioning to prevent undesirable pollution of the River Lune.

Milnthorpe.

This is an obsolete and inefficient tank situated on the Strands near the gasworks. There is excessive infiltration water in the main sewer, the tank is inadequate for the development of Milnthorpe and pollution of the Bela is unavoidable until your Council's scheme for superseding the plant is completed.

The new disposal works commenced in 1949 are nearing completion and I hope that they will be in use early next year.

Other Works.

The other sewage disposal works are small installations at:—

Sedgwick ...	...	Riverside, Sedgwick.
Heversham ...	...	Marsh Lane, Heversham.
Endmoor ...	...	Challon Hall, Preston Richard.
Casterton ...	...	Kirfit Hall, Casterton.
Burton ...	...	Ley Pitts, Burton.
Holme ...	...	Mill Lane, Holme.
Holme Mills	...	One small tank scheme.
Levens ...	...	Three small tank schemes.
Storth ...	...	One small tank scheme.
Hutton Roof	...	One small tank scheme.
Whassett ...	...	One small tank scheme.
Mealbank ...	...	One small private scheme.
Burneside ...	...	One small private scheme.

Most of these work well but some of them need renovations and small improvements.

Proposed New Sewerage Schemes.

Milnthorpe.

This new scheme was commenced in April, 1949, but progress has been very slow. Completion is expected in 1952.

Levens.

The scheme for this village has been sent to the Ministry of Health, but its high cost seems hardly justifiable at present. The Westmorland County Council refused during 1951 to approve the scheme for grant aid, so your Council's Engineer was instructed to submit an alternative cheaper scheme which was in course of preparation at the year

end. Meanwhile it is hoped that the new housing development in Levens will not precipitate too serious a nuisance if it overloads the existing tanks.

Crooklands.

This scheme has been shelved.

Burneside.

Negotiations were still proceeding for the sewage from Burneside to be taken into the Kendal system.

Bowston.

Your Engineer submitted his plans for a small sewerage system at Bowston and your Council resolved to proceed with the scheme. It was under consideration by the Minister at the year end.

Beetham.

Your Engineer is preparing a small disposal works to serve this village as its incorporation into the Milnthorpe Scheme was not approved by the Ministry of Health. This smaller scheme was examined at a Private Inquiry held by the Minister in 1951 and certain modifications were made. No approval to start has yet been received. Meanwhile crude sewage is discharged into the Bela.

Natland.

Your Council decided during 1951 to install a sewerage system in Natland and instructed the Engineer to submit a scheme. This was in course of preparation at the year end.

Holme Mills.

The present tank is quite obsolete and cannot be economically operated without causing nuisance, so your Council propose to pump the sewage from this area into the Holme system.

Cesspool Emptying.

Owing to the increasing number of sewage tanks on Council Housing Estates, a lorry has been converted to a cesspool emptier, with a capacity of 550 gallons served with a hand pump. This service has been provided also on repayment to private owners of cesspools but staff shortage precludes any immediate extension of the scheme.

Small Schemes.

In such a scattered rural area the extension of many township and village systems would be impracticable and therefore some small schemes will be needed to serve hamlets and small villages when water supplies are installed.

Prevalence of Water Closets and other Methods.

Four-fifths of your houses have water closets, but the other fifth comprises about a thousand houses with more primitive arrangements. There are still over 300 privy middens in your District. The details of the various types of sanitary fittings in each parish were set out in Table IV of my 1947 Report. From this list it was easy to see that considerable work lies ahead in cleaning up the District, and that the worst areas are those which are awaiting the arrival of the public water supplies.

Improvements achieved during 1951.

Privy closets and middens abolished and W.C.s provided ...	29
Privy closets and middens abolished and pails provided ...	7
Pail closets abolished and W.C.s provided	10
Additional W.C.s provided in the district	171
New drainage systems installed	48
New septic tanks installed	30
Overflowing tanks remedied	19
Choked and defective drainage systems remedied	14

Notices served re Sanitary Accommodation and Drainage.

Insanitary privies and privy middens	38
Defective sanitary pails	22
Insufficient drainage systems	47

Public Conveniences.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 87.

Public conveniences are maintained in Arnside, Milnthorpe, Staveley and Kirkby Lonsdale. Continual complaints are received of the unsatisfactory condition of Arnside and constant cleaning and super-

vision are required to deal with the public misuse to which they are subjected. It is a curious trend in public morals for toilets to be so defiled with careless excretion, obscene and perverted mural decorations, and so often damaged by wanton destruction of the actual fittings.

New conveniences are under construction at Arnside to replace the present bad ones, and it is hoped that they will be completed early in 1952.

Conveniences are needed in all the populous villages, particularly to deal with the increasing motor coach traffic. The systematic defiling of our village back streets and yards continues mainly because the visitors are offered no alternative. The present time is not opportune for embarking upon any extensive scheme of public lavatories, but I regard their ultimate provision as a much needed public health measure rather than a source of income to your Council.

The Staveley convenience was constructed during 1949 and is incorporated in a bus shelter and this pattern could be followed to great advantage elsewhere.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 72.

Refuse collection is undertaken by the Council in the following parishes:—Arnside, Barbon, Beetham, Burton, Dillicar, Casterton, Crosthwaite and Lyth, Helsington, Heversham, Hincaster, Holme, Hugill, Levens, Milnthorpe, Natland, Nether Staveley, New Hutton, Old Hutton, Over Staveley, Kirkby Lonsdale, Preston Patrick, Preston Richard, Lupton, Scalthwaiterigg, Grayrigg, Meathop, Dalton, Hutton Roof, Selside and Mansergh. The service covers all the more populated parts of the Council's area. With the exception of Dillicar the work is carried out by direct labour with the Council's own vehicles. Private collection and disposal services are provided for the two parishes of Strickland Ketel and Roger.

During the past few years many extra houses have been added to the collection rounds and your Council have drastically cut the staff employed on this work. The obvious result is that your Council no longer maintain the previous efficiency of their service and the public complain that their bins are not emptied often enough. It cannot be otherwise.

Refuse Disposal.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 76.

Disposal of refuse is carried out by tipping on eight of your Council's sites. 1951 saw a most commendable improvement in the introduction of controlled tipping as a gradual replacement of the crude dumping which was the former practice of your Council. The serious fire at your Slack Head tip caused heavy expense to control and emphasised the desirability of minimising the nuisances.

Controlled tipping is difficult here because there is neither sufficient labour on the sites nor sufficient covering material, with the result that considerable nuisances occur. The natural beauty of the countryside ought not to be desecrated by multiple dumps of ugly human refuse. Yet the refuse must be put somewhere and the land does not yield enough covering material to hide and minimise the consequent nuisances of unsightliness, smell, flies, rats and fire. In the days of horse-drawn refuse carts and local contractors it was obviously imperative to use multiple local tips, but now motor transport has changed the situation. I think that you should aim at centralising your tips as far as practicable, thus limiting the nuisances and favouring better supervision of the tip faces. Your Council agreed to the appointment of a man to assist in keeping your tips in proper order, and it is hoped that the long overdue improvements will be made.

The position regarding your present tips at the year end were as follows:—

Slackhead, Beetham.

This is your main tip, which was opened in 1949, and it needs much supervision to keep in order. The serious fire destroyed much woodland and it was necessary to hire a bulldozer to cut out the deep-seated portions of the tip which smouldered on after the main conflagration had been quenched.

The tip was afterwards replanned to allow less extensive tip faces and easier covering, and by the year end it was looking as a controlled tip should be, and a model for the other sites in your district. There is ample space for many years.

Holme.

This tip is getting full but its life could be extended by some reorganisation on the site. It needs tidying up and better covering. There is ample covering material locally and what this tip needs is labour.

Kirkby Lonsdale.

The more I see of this tip the more I am convinced that it never ought to have been put there, and the sooner it is closed the better.

Much improvement has been made during 1951 to observe controlled tipping and this technique is strictly obligatory for a tip which is sited so near to a large residential school.

Staveley.

The site acquired in 1948 is in use and is fairly well maintained considering the lack of available covering material. There is ample scope for many years' tipping.

Other Tips.

There are small tips at:—

- High Barns, Hincaster.
- Pool Bank, Witherslack.
- Savin Wood, Levens.
- Quarry Lots, Hutton Roof.

Your Council have given notice that the disused tip at Casterton will be returned to its owners.

Inspections re Refuse Collection, Accommodation and Disposal.

Inspections and visits <i>re</i> ashplace accommodation, complaints, surveys, etc.	171
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Notices Served re Refuse Service.

Number of notices served <i>re</i> accumulations	17
Number of notices served <i>re</i> ashplace accommodation	...	...	...	15
Number of notices served <i>re</i> defective dustbins	...	...	...	43
Number of notices served <i>re</i> insanitary ash pits	...	...	...	20

Salvage of Waste Material.

Salvage was collected as much as was possible with reduced staff and it is likely that much was collected privately, it is quite obvious that with so many scattered tips serving only a relatively small population the sorting and collection of waste materials will be uneconomical.

Street Cleansing.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 77.

In the few areas where street cleansing is undertaken by your Council the streets are well maintained. The County Council undertake the remainder and maintain a similarly high standard.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Orders and Regulations made thereunder, your Council has the duty of carrying out specific responsibilities in the registration of certain food premises, in the supervision of milk distributors and certain dairies, and in the wide field of protection of the public from food borne diseases. The County Council are responsible for the detection of adulteration of foodstuffs, and the supervision of the sale of drugs.

The Act came into force just before the commencement of the late war, and apart from the Milk and Dairies Orders and Regulations which were continued from earlier Acts, its full operation has not been locally achieved. The Ministries of Health and Food are sponsoring a vigorous campaign against food-borne diseases, and the proper implementation of the Act should give a greater measure of protection to the public. The co-operation of the catering trade and the education of all food handlers in a high standard of hygiene will be sought under the wider powers provided by the Act.

The Minister of Food confirmed your Council's byelaws on food handling and these became operative during 1950.

The year has been marked by increased departmental activity in this sphere. There are 111 catering establishments in your area plus 24 schools and institutions where catering takes place. During 1951, inspections were made of 84 of these premises, including 41 in which a very detailed overhaul was made of the equipment and the food handling practices of the staff. 21 licensed premises were inspected for catering and toilet facilities.

Precautions against Contamination.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 13.

Food traders and caterers observe a fairly good standard of cleanliness on the average, but considerable work lies ahead in raising the standard of those who are now below the average. I want to see cleaner food, cleaner premises and cleaner food-handlers.

This aim is of major importance. It will involve my department carrying out your statutory responsibilities with particular diligence and it will require the education and co-operation of all food handlers within your area.

I am confident that this co-operation will be forthcoming. I believe that traders are eager to set their premises in order in the interests of enterprise and competition, and that they are anxious to eliminate slipshod methods among their staffs.

Thorough cleanliness in the kitchens is far more important than titivation in the dining-room. No food trader nor caterer should be ashamed to show his customers behind the scenes, and every customer should be confident that the food he eats is clean and has been cleanly prepared. He has a right to be so protected, and your Council is the guardian of that right.

Food-borne disease, mild dysenteries, and attacks of diarrhoea and vomiting are not infrequent in our homes and among our visitors. I am confident that higher standards will reduce preventable diseases.

During 1951 your Council formally warned the proprietors of a café and a hotel in Arnside to observe the cleanliness requirements of this Act.

Ice-Cream Trade.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.

The following premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:—

Manufacture by hot mix, cold mix, storage and sale ...	...	4
Manufacture by cold mix, storage and sale ...	...	2
Storage and sale only ...	...	39

A comprehensive code of standards for ice cream factories, plant and retail units was circulated to the trade. 41 visits were made during the year and 30 samples were tested. The open barrow or cart has been abolished and the enforcement of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, has greatly improved the technique of manufacture.

Prepared Meats.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14.

The number of premises on the Register under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, used for the preparation of sausages, potted

meat, preserved meat, and pickled foods had not been ascertained at the year end. 14 applications for registration are under consideration.

Milk.

I think the day is not far distant when our District will be declared free from bovine tuberculosis and the only milk allowed to be sold will be tuberculin tested milk from attested herds or heat treated milk. Very rapid progress is being made towards that goal and we should not be distracted by side issues.

Registration of Milk Distributors and Dairies which are not Dairy Farms.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Total number of Registered Distributors	...	...	...	9
Total number of Registered Dairies	...	...	...	4

Retail Milk.

There are estimated to be 250 retailers in your District, the majority of whom are producer-retailers, and the number of customers supplied varies from two or three to one hundred.

The retail distribution of milk is both by bottled milk and the old-fashioned loose method. Traders are becoming keener to meet the desire of the enlightened consumer for bottling. Milk-round vehicles are maintained generally in a clean condition.

Cleanliness of Milk.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 68.

No samples of milk were taken during the year for laboratory examinations.

Pathogenic Organisms in Milk

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 68.

No samples were examined biologically in guinea pigs for the presence of tuberculosis organisms.

The finding of tubercle bacilli in milk is difficult and one must bear in mind the human biological tests on your own children with their record of new cases and deaths in past years from non-respiratory tuberculosis. The growth of the Attested Herds Scheme and Tuberculin Tested milk production will gradually reduce this toll of human

suffering, but more extensive sampling of ungraded milks would appear to be required.

No instances of other disease producing organisms in milk were found. We know that Brucella Abortus, the organism which causes contagious abortion in cattle and undulant fever in man can be isolated from a good proportion of bulked milk supplies, and it is probable that mild infections constantly occur. No serious cases have been encountered and the veterinary profession is taking steps to inoculate cattle against the disease.

It was not necessary during the year to stop any milk supply or restrict the activities of any milk-handlers under the Milk and Dairies Regulations on account of infectious disease.

Designated Milks.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.

Your District Council is responsible for the granting of dealers' and supplementary annual licences for the sale of designated milks. At the year end 5 dealers' licences and no supplementary licences were in force.

Adulteration of Milk and Other Foods.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sections 1-7.

This matter is the responsibility of the County Council and I anticipate that the County Medical Officer of Health will include in his Annual Report some information relating to this aspect.

Slaughterhouses.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sections 57-61.

There are no licensed slaughterhouses nor knackers' yards in the District. Centralisation of slaughtering under the arrangement of the Ministry of Food continues. Casualty slaughters are inspected on the site in every case.

Condemnation of Meat.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sections 10 and 12.

All slaughtering is carried out in abattoirs situated in the area of other authorities, and the meat is inspected therein. The motor

vehicles used for the conveyance of meat are not entirely satisfactory. No meat was condemned in the course of distribution.

Condemnation of Other Foods.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sections 10-12.

The following foodstuffs were condemned during 1951:—

- 2 Tins of red cherries in syrup.
- 5 „ „ prunes and apple pudding.
- 4 „ „ baked beans.
- 1 Tin „ bananas.
- 20 Tins „ tomato puree.
- 2 „ „ apricot pulp.
- 2 „ „ tomato juice.
- 90 lbs. „ pears in syrup.
- 10 „ „ pear drops.
- 1 Tin „ evaporated milk.
- 7 Tins „ cooked hams.
- 5 „ „ luncheon meat.
- 3 „ „ salmon.
- 2 „ „ carrots.
- 2 „ „ tomato paste.

GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION.

Your Council employs one Chief Sanitary Inspector and two Additional Sanitary Inspectors. The salary is apportioned between the sanitary inspection duties and the other duties in a proportion approved by the Minister of Health. You receive through the County Council a grant of one-half of that apportionment of the salary allocated to sanitary inspection, and this should therefore be the basis upon which time is devoted to the various duties.

For the past few years the control of civil builders' work threw an undue strain upon the department to the prejudice of sanitary inspection. This was greatly relieved during 1948, but a very much greater burden was imposed by your Council accepting certain dele-

gated powers under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947. This has resulted in a volume of extra work which is quite disproportionate to the benefits you seem to receive by such limited delegated powers. I am keeping this matter under close review.

The war years caused the accumulation of considerable arrears of work in many aspects of your Council's sanitary functions, and it will take a fair time to make good this leeway. I support most strongly the policy of my Chief Sanitary Inspector to concentrate upon the more essential functions in a thorough manner, each in turn, and therefore it will be seen from this Report that some duties are not at present being carried out to the extent which is desired.

I deprecate mere token performance of your Council's statutory responsibilities. My department has set itself a high standard of efficiency, and I am convinced that we are working on the right lines to raise your Council to the forefront of progressive authorities. Your existence depends upon efficiency in these times of increasing centralisation of government.

Summary of Inspections carried out during the year.

Dwelling-houses inspected with a view to Statutory action under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	72
Dwelling-houses inspected with a view to Informal action under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	56
Number of re-inspections for this purpose	...	...	...	...	...	174
General inspection of premises for nuisances excluding above						229
Visits and inspections <i>re</i> moveable dwellings and Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	90
Bakehouses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	16
Ice-cream premises visited and inspected	...	.....	...	...	...	41
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	9
Factories and workshops—inspections and visits	...	...	...	...	...	65
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	10
Inspections <i>re</i> drains, including all types of drainage works	...					482
Inspections <i>re</i> private water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	106
Inspections <i>re</i> food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	83
Inspections of licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	21

Visits and inspections <i>re</i> infection diseases	...	...	...	29
Disinfections	...	...	...	25
Inspections of new building works	...	...	...	531
Visits and inspections, temporary buildings	...	...	...	118
Visits and inspections <i>re</i> accumulations	...	...	...	40
Visits and inspections <i>re</i> refuse cleansing service	...	...	...	128
Inspections <i>re</i> septic tanks	...	...	...	148
Visits and inspections <i>re</i> sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	211

Offensive Trades.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 107.

There are no offensive trades in the District.

Factories.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 149 factories on the Register. 65 inspections were made and 10 written Notices served. No references were made to H.M. Inspector and none were received from him. No prosecutions were required.

No lists of outworkers were supplied to your Council by factory owners, and I have no official knowledge of any cases of default in this respect.

There are no basement bakehouses in the District. No certificates were issued during the year regarding means of escape from factories in case of fire.

Form 572 (revised) was sent directly to the Ministry of Health and National Service giving the details of your Council's administration of the relevant sections of Parts I and VIII of the Factories Act, 1937, in accordance with Section 127 of that Act.

It has not been possible in the past to perform these duties in an adequate manner, but it is hoped that next year may bring some improvement. Liaison with H.M. Inspector is very good and there is no reason to believe that factory conditions have suffered unduly by the arrears of work incurred.

FACTORY INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspec- tions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	45	11	4	—
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	104	54	6	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	149	65	10	—

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of Cases in which Defects were found.	
	Found.	Remedied.
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7).		
(a) Insufficient	3	3
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—
Other Offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1
TOTAL	6	6

Shops Act, 1950.

No shop premises were visited during the year. These duties are not adequately covered due to the prior claim of other work.

Common Lodging Houses.*Public Health Act, 1936. Part IX.*

There are no Common Lodging Houses in your District.

Rent Restriction Acts.

No action was taken during the year and no rent book entries were reported to be irregular.

Smoke Abatement.*Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 101-106.*

The only troublesome case was at Staveley where a wood-turning company experienced difficulties in avoiding the emission of dense black smoke at irregular intervals.

Rag Flock Act, 1951.

One application for registration was granted and one sample was examined.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

It was not necessary during the year to deal with any cases requiring removal but one was under observation.

Laboratory Services.

Laboratory facilities were available both at Kendal and Carlisle for all public health purposes. During 1947 a new scheme was inaugurated by the Public Health Laboratory Service for the performance of all laboratory examinations of a preventive and epidemiological nature, free of charge, to the Local Authority and the patient. This should do much to encourage the freer use of modern diagnostic methods by general practitioners and your Health Department.

Bye-Laws.

Byelaws on public health matters are in force for:—

Building.

New Streets.

Drainage of existing buildings.

Slaughterhouses.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Food handling.

New Legislation.

Rag Flock Act, 1951, became operative on 1st November, 1951.

LABORATORY EXAMINATION OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

Nature of Test.	Standards Max.	Barbon	Burneside	Casterton	Garnett Bridge	Garth Row	Grayrigg	Kirkby Lonsdale	Lupton Raw	Lupton Treated	Staveley
<i>Pr. coli</i> count 37°	... 3-10	180+	2+	180+	+	o	o	o	180+	+	o
<i>Faecal coli/strep.</i>	... o	180+	+	—	Clear	—	Clear	Clear	—	Clear	Clear
Character ...	...	—	—	—	7.8	7.5	7.8	7.0	7.6	8.2	8.2
Reaction pH	...	—	7.8	8.0	.005	.003	.010	.003	.005	.003	.002
Free and Saline Ammonia	... .001	.002	.003	.004	.007	.026	.007	.006	.011	.009	.007
Albuminoid Ammonia	... .008	.005	.04	—	11.6	8.0	7.8	23.0	12.9	10.1	11.5
Total Solids	... .005	—	13.4	5.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hardness {	Perm. ...	—	4.8	2.0	4.2	4.2	4.0	3.8	4.5	4.2	3.4
Temp. ...	—	0.6	2.6	3.6	2.2	0.6	8.2	4.1	.8	.9	4.0
Total ...	30	—	5.4	4.6	7.8	5.4	4.6	12	9.4	5.3	7.4
Chlorides ...	... 3	—	9.5	1.0	8.5	.88	.95	.95	.9	.95	.075
Nitrates ...	... 1	—	.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nitrites ...	... 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
O ₂ Absorbed ...	... 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poisonous Metals ...	... o	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plumbosolvency —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rainfall, 24 hours —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Date sampled —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Laboratory ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Carlisle	Kendal	Carlisle	Kendal	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle

Chemical Analysis results expressed in parts per 100,000.

